

Asheville-Buncombe Homeless Coalition
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2009

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TARGET DATE
Welcome and introductions	Brian Alexander, welcomed the members to coalition meeting. Everyone around the table introduced themselves.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Review and approval of Minutes	The minutes were sent out electronically prior to the meeting. No corrections were identified. By group consensus, the minutes were approved.	Minutes were passed unanimously.	N/A	N/A
Agency Updates And New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pisgah Legal Aid is moving this Friday to 62 A Charlotte Street Asheville, NC 28801 Telephone number: 828-253-0406 	N/A	N/A	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeward Bound has taken over the PATH Program that provides out reach services to homeless persons. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mae Creadick reported that Bill Barnes, attorney for Partnership Property Management, is open to working with persons denied housing due to credit problems. It is possible that On Track may be able to provide a certificate after people work through a credit repair program. Referrals should be made to Pisgah Legal Services. 	If clients have a credit background issue, refer them to Pisgah.	Coalition members	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amy Sawyer reported on the point in time results. A full report will be provided to the coalition. 555 total persons were counted. 115 of this number were chronic homeless. HMIS showed a 48% increase in Point in Time utilization. Amy recommends that individuals contact her that want to participate in HMIS training. See attachment A, p.4 	Contact Amy Sawyer to participate in HMIS	Agencies serving people experiencing homelessness	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenants with the Homeward Bound Housing Support Teams showed a 34% REDUCTION in emergency services use, supporting national outcomes for housing first programs. 74 individuals accessed the program, with a retention rate of 91%. The full report is included with these notes. This report indicates that there is a cost saving to community resources as a result of support team interventions. See Attachment B, p.5 	Read the HST Interim Report & share the report with interested parties	Coalition Members	April, 2009
Focus Groups Breakout sessions	The Housing and Services groups discussed goals and action steps. Please see below for notes.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Meeting	DSS, 40 Coxe Ave, Asheville NC: April 7@12:30pm	N/A	N/A	4/7@12:30

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Action Group Notes: HOUSING GROUP		
<p>Discussion: <u>Credit problems</u> – group discussed credit issues, property management denials, letters of release. Pisgah can help people who have been denied housing & On Track can help people repair credit and through the Home Base program, access comprehensive services and rent deposit payments. <u>“Bad” Landlords</u> – what can be done when a landlord isn’t holding up their end of the bargain? Pisgah Legal has a list of landlords that have had a lot of cases brought against them, but each case is complex. <u>Housing in Community</u> – discussion of safe housing & safe neighborhoods. There are over 100 vacancies in public housing. The Housing Choice Program (Section 8) is working for faster turnover and may be accepting applications by the summer. For surrounding counties, Madison County is the contact for Housing Choice – they oversee a few counties programs. Henderson County has two Housing Authorities. WNCAA oversees Housing Choice & Public Housing in Transylvania county. They also do housing services outside of public housing for Transylvania, Henderson, and Madison counties. There may be a preference for county residents in these programs, but it is not a requirement to access housing. <u>Housing Deposits</u> – PATH assists w/deposits for their clients, On track provides deposits for their clients after completion of the program, EBLEN and DSS emergency assistance provide up to \$300 – assistance every Monday morning first thing, people can also work with landlords to set up a payment plan.</p>		
Action Steps:	Who is responsible?	Time Line
<p>Credit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On track will look into providing certificates to indicate an individual has taken the steps to work in their credit <p>“Bad” Landlords:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google Bad Landlord Contact the better business bureau w/specific issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan S. will get talk to On Track about this Housing Group Coalition Members 	<p>April, 2009</p> <p>April 2009</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

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Action Group Notes: DISCHARGE/MEDICAL Services Group		
<p>Update: <u>Update on Americorps*VISTA:</u> Amy Sawyer has connected up with the VISTA and will survey the coalition in April to determine what needs the Coalition has. <u>Jail Coordinating & Homeless Providers:</u> A meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12 on the 3rd floor of the Jail from 11:30-12:30 between Jail staff and homeless outreach staff. <u>Mission & Outreach Workers:</u> This is ongoing. Brian will follow up with Barbara Marlowe at the Advisory meeting to make sure the meetings between mission social workers and homeless outreach workers continue.</p>		
<p>Discussion: <u>Protocol:</u> Understanding who is being discharged, and formalizing/discussing the policies of the involved agencies can make a more uniform and better understood discharge process. Mission Hospitals still need to add “housing status” as data element in order to evaluate who is homeless & using their services. The Oasis House is a new program – a transitional house for people leaving Broughton, the goal is to prevent discharge to homelessness. Places people are discharged from: St. Joseph’s Hospital, Mission Hospitals, Jail, Western Highlands/Broughton, Detox – Neil Dobbins, Parkway, ADACT, Copestone, Swain, First at Blue Ridge, Prison <u>Discharge/Housing Hotline:</u> If there was one central place people could call to learn about housing resources in the community, a centralized place for housing questions that has people who are constantly reviewing housing options, then we might have a better handle on what community need is and be better at responding to people’s housing needs. Is this a possible partnership with 2-1-1?</p>		
Action Steps:	Who is responsible?	Time Line
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey the Coalition to identify how an AmeriCorps worker could support the Coalition’s work. Talk to Mission Hospital social work director, Barbara Marlowe, to ensure ongoing mission/outreach meetings. Oasis House didn’t get included in the Point in Time Count – they need to be included. Discharge Protocol – bring examples of what other communities have done Invite a representative from the Oasis House to join the Coalition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amy Sawyer Brian Alexander Amy Sawyer Amy Sawyer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 7, 2009 April, 2009 April, 2009 April 7, 2009

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Attachment A: Details of Point in Time Count Results

TOTALS

Total People Counted in:

	Permanent Housing	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Emergency Shelter	Facilities	Total
2008 Paper PIT Tally Sheet	166	130	77	243	62	512
2009 Paper PIT Tally Sheet	231	247	92	179	37	555

Notes: Transitional Housing numbers have increased in part because ABCCM's A Vet's Place is now at full capacity, which was not the case a year ago.

SUBCATEGORIES

Total People Counted In:

	Permanent Housing	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Emergency Shelter	Facilities	Total
2008 Chronically Homeless	n/a	n/a	63	88	n/a	155
2009 Chronically Homeless	n/a	n/a	33	82	n/a	115
2009 Children	31	40	0	12	0	52
2009 Families	20	24	0	11	0	35

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Attachment B: HST Summary & Report

For an electronic copy of the report, go to this weblink:

http://www.ncceh.org/attachments/contentmanagers/694/Feb_2009_Housing_Support_Team_Report.pdf



<-- or click this ICON to see a PDF Version

Housing Support Team Funding at Risk

The Housing Support Teams program is a \$2.1 million, 26-month pilot project of the NC Department of Health and Human Services, funded through the state mental health trust fund since 2007.

This program is the first state funding directed towards homelessness. On February 12, 2009, all three communities designated to implement the pilot program were informed that funding will not be renewed. Local community partners are informing elected officials about the program's successes and asking that the project continue to be funded.

Created in 2007, the Housing Support Teams program succeeded in meeting the original goals set forth by the North Carolina mental health transformation: assisting some of the most vulnerable and at-risk clients to move beyond crisis and access permanent housing and community support systems. Client participants have achieved dramatically successful outcomes. As noted above, preliminary reports suggest that federal, state, and locally funded emergency response systems in counties with Housing Support Teams are recognizing a 32% cost savings in Buncombe County.

The Housing Support Teams pilot program serves homeless individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. Until their enrollment in the program, participants heavily utilized public systems such as hospitals, mental health hospitals, jails, prisons and homeless shelters. Under the guidance of the program, participants have reduced their use of these public systems.

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In the two years that the pilot program has existed in Buncombe County, 74 individuals have been housed. The retention rate is 91%, meaning that just 9% of the people who accessed the program were unable to stabilize their housing. People in the program have seen improvements in mental health, a reduction in behaviors related to substance abuse, and an increase in income. Unfortunately, for some participants, disability applications are still pending or underemployment limits access to affordable housing, necessitating support from mainstream housing subsidies through the Housing Authority, where there are waiting lists. Subsequently, 29 adults and 7 children continue to receive funding through the program in order to afford rent. Additionally, the program was funding supportive services that help everyone in the program maintain their housing.

This program has flourished in three North Carolina counties: Buncombe, Durham, and Guilford. Without continued funding the Housing Support Teams program will end on June 30, 2009. The program's end will mean a loss of stability for participants currently enrolled in the program and inhibit the implementation of successful best practices interventions embraced by the Housing Support Teams program. In Buncombe County, the Western Highlands Network is the lead entity, and Homeward Bound has served as the project manager. Partners of the project include the Asheville Housing Authority, Pisgah Legal Services, and numerous mental health providers.